

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, H. A.)

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF RADIO AND TV, FEBRUARY 16 AND 17

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

NO. 28

SUMMARY: BROADCASTING FROM GENEVA, SUNDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 16, VALERIANI ON NBC-TV, REPORTED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER CAME TO GENEVA WITH SPECIAL INTEREST IN TRYING TO FIND OUT WHAT THE CURRENT MOOD IN MOSCOW IS. ATMOSPHERE AT THE SOVIET MISSION, HE REPORTED, WAS RESTRAINED. HE SAID THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS WERE SAVING THE MOST CONTENTIOUS ISSUES FOR DISCUSSIONS ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17. IN HIS MONDAY MORNING BROADCAST ON THE TODAY SHOW, VALERIANI REPORTED THAT THERE WERE SOME SHARP EXCHANGES AT THE SUNDAY EVENING KISSINGER-GROMYKO MEETING WITH MORE DISAGREEMENT EXPECTED AT THE MONDAY MEETINGS, ESPECIALLY OVER THE SEATING OF THE PLO AT GENEVA. ON CBS RADIO AND TV, MONDAY MORNING, KALB REPORTED THAT THE MONDAY NIGHT MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO WAS MARKED BY OCCASIONAL SHARP EXCHANGES AND THAT MONDAY'S ENCOUNTER MAY BE EVEN SHARPER. KOPPEL ON ABC TV, MONDAY

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EXPERIENCE OF REPRESENTATIVE STEVEN SOLARZ IN SYRIA AND

EXPERIENCE OF REPRESENTATIVE STEVEN SOLAR? IN SYRIA AND

THE CONGRESSMAN'S RETHINKING OF HIS OPPOSITION TO THE U.S. GRANTING \$25 MILLION OF ECONOMIC AID AS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT SECRETARY KISSINGER MAY HAVE IN MIND WHEN HE TALKS ABOUT INTANGIBLES IN THE MOVEMENT TOWARDS PEACE.

1. VALERIANI, NBC-TV:

(A) SUNDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 16, FROM GENEVA--KISSINGER REPORTED TO CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO THE MIDDLE EAST. THE TWO MEN ACTIVELY DISCUSSED ECONOMIC POLICY AND THE OIL PROBLEM. THE GERMANS GENERALLY FAVORED THE AMERICAN PROPOSAL FOR A WORLD PRICE ON OIL THAT IS BELOW THE CURRENT LEVEL BUT STILL HIGH ENOUGH TO STIMULATE INVESTMENTS IN ALTERNATE SOURCES OF ENERGY. FROM BONN, KISSINGER FLEW TO GENEVA TO MEET WITH SOVIET GROMYKO. JUST TWO DAYS AGO THE TOP SOVIET LEADER, BREZHNEV, BLASTED KISSINGER'S ONE MAN DIPLOMACY IN THE ME. IN HIS AIRPORT ARRIVAL STATEMENT, GROMYKO SAID THAT WHAT HE AND KISSINGER DISCUSSED HERE WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO OTHER COUNTRIES BESIDES THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET UNION. VALERIANI -- THE SECURITY MEASURES AT THE AIRPORT WERE INTENSIFIED IN THE WAKE OF A BOMB ATTEMPT ON THE WEST GERMAN MISSION ONE WEEK AGO. POLICE CARRIED SUBMACHINE GUNS, WORE BULLETPROOF VESTS. KISSINGER CAME TO GENEVA WITH A SPECIAL INTEREST IN TRYING TO FIND OUT WHAT THE CURRENT MOOD IN MOSCOW IS, SINCE HE HAS NOT HAD DIRECT CONTACT WITH HIGH RANKING SOVIET OFFICIALS IN MORE THAN A MONTH. IN HIS ARRIVAL STATEMENT KISSINGER ECHOED THE VIEW THAT AMERICAN-SOVIET RELATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE PEACE OF THE WORLD. THE ATMOSPHERE AT THE SOVIET DIPLOMATIC MISSION WAS FRIENDLY BUT RESTRAINED AS KISSINGER ARRIVED FOR A WORKING DINNER. AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAID TONIGHT'S AGENDA INCLUDED A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF A NEW TRADE AGREEMENT BUT NO NEW NEGOTIATIONS ON THAT SUBJECT. KISSINGER AND GROMYKO ARE SAVING THE MOST CONTENTIOUS ISSUES ON THEIR AGENDA FOR TOMORROW.

(B) MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, FROM GENEVA--GROMYKO ARRIVED IN GENEVA TWO DAYS AFTER BREZHNEV HAD BLASTED KISSINGER'S ONE MAN DIPLOMACY IN THE ME AND HE CAME READY TO DEMAND UNCLASSIFIED

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AN IMMEDIATE RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE. SECURITY WAS EXTRAORDINARILY HEAVY FOR THE ARRIVAL OF KISSINGER AND GROMYKO. THE SECRETARY OF STATE CAME HERE CONCERNED THAT THE RUSSIANS MIGHT BE PLANNING TO PUT PRESSURE ON SYRIA TO OPPOSE HIS STEP-BY-STEP NEGOTIATION. THE FIRST MEETING TOOK PLACE OVER DINNER AT THE SOVIET DIPLOMATIC MISSION AND OFFICIALS DESCRIBED THE TALKS AS GENERALLY CONSTRUCTIVE BUT INDICATED THERE HAD BEEN SOME

SHARP EXCHANGES. MORE DISAGREEMENT IS LIKELY TODAY IF THEY DISCUSS THE ME IN DETAIL WITH GROMYKO PUSHING FOR THE SEATING OF THE PLO AT GENEVA AND KISSINGER OPPOSING IT

UNLESS THE PLO ACKNOWLEDGES THE RIGHT OF ISRAEL TO EXIST. AFTER GENEVA THE NEXT STOP ON KISSINGER'S ITINERARY IS LONDON WHERE HE WILL CONFER WITH PM WILSON. WILSON WILL HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION AND KISSINGER IS INTERESTED IN HEARING THE BRITISH ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT MOOD IN MOSCOW.

2. KALB, FEBRUARY 17, FROM GENEVA:

(A) CBS-TV -- LAST NIGHT KISSINGER AND GROMYKO MET AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY, THIS MORNING IN THE SECRETARY'S HOTEL SUITE. NOT ONLY LOCATION CHANGED, TOPICS TOO. LAST NIGHT THEY DISCUSSED PREPARATIONS FOR BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO THE U.S. IN LATE JUNE OR JULY FOCUSSED ON STRATEGIC ARMS. BOTH SIDES HAVE RECENTLY EXCHANGED PROPOSALS BUILDING ON THE VLADIVOSTOK ACCORDS, BUT NO BREAKTHROUGHTS HAVE BEEN REGISTERED. ANOTHER FOUR TO SIX WEEKS OF SPARRING IS ANTICIPATED THEN TWO MONTHS OF HARD NEGOTIATING BEFORE AGREEMENT IS POSSIBLE. IF AGREEMENT IS NOT POSSIBLE THEN BREZHNEV'S VISIT MAY HAVE TO BE POSTPONED UNTIL SEPTEMBER. TODAY THE TWO DIPLOMATS SHIFTED TO THE ME, EASILY THE MOST CONTENTIOUS ISSUE BETWEEN THEM. BREZHNEV RECENTLY CRITICIZED KISSINGER'S PEACE MAKING EFFORTS BELIEVING THAT THE ENTIRE PROBLEM OUGHT TO BE THROWN INTO THE LAP OF A RECONVENED GENEVA CONFERENCE. KISSINGER HAS NO OBJECTION TO A CONFERENCE BUT HE WANTS IT TO TAKE PLACE AFTER ANOTHER INTERIM AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL IS WORKED OUT WITH AMERICAN HELP.

(B) CBS RADIO -- KISSINGER AND GROMYKO SWITCHED SUB-UNCLASSIFIED

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JECTS AND LOCATIONS TODAY FROM PREPARATIONS FOR BREZHNEV'S STILL SCHEDULED VISIT TO THE U.S. EARLY THIS SUMMER TO THE BITTER AND DIVISIVE PROBLEM OF THE ME, FROM GROMYKO'S EMBASSY TO KISSINGER'S HOTEL SUITE. IF LAST NIGHT'S MEETING WAS MARKED BY OCCASIONALLY SHARP EXCHANGES, AS KISSINGER'S SPOKESMAN HINTED LAST NIGHT, TODAY'S ENCOUNTER MAY BE EVEN SHARPER. THE RUSSIAN AND AMERICAN POSITIONS ON THE ME DIFFER WIDELY -- GROMYKO PUSHING FOR A QUICK RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, AN ISRAELI PULL-BACK ALL THE WAY TO THE 1967 BORDERS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEPARATE PALESTINIAN STATE. KISSINGER, FOR HIS PART, PUSHES FOR ANOTHER INTERIM AGREEMENT NOW BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT AND ONLY THEN A RETURN TO GENEVA WHERE FURTHER ISRAELI TROOP WITHDRAWALS WOULD BE DISCUSSED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF AN OVERALL PEACE SETTLEMENT.

KISSINGER'S POLICY WAS ATTACKED BY BREZHNEV IN RECENT DAYS BUT THE SECRETARY IS PLOWING AHEAD ANYWAY. HE PLANS TO RETURN TO THE ME NEXT MONTH BELIEVING THAT ANOTHER AGREEMENT IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT IN HOLDING OFF ANOTHER WAR AND ANOTHER POSSIBLE OIL EMBARGO.

3. KOPPEL, ABC-TV, FEBRUARY 17 FROM BONN -- HOW IS KISSINGER DOING IN THE ME? LET ME QUICKLY TELL YOU OF ONE STEVEN SOLARZ, A FRESHMAN CONGRESSMAN FROM BROOKLYN WHO HITCHED A RIDE WITH US THE OTHER DAY ON THE KISSINGER PLANE FROM DAMASCUS TO TEL AVIV. CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ HAS NOTHING AND EVERYTHING TO DO WITH KISSINGER'S ME STRATEGY. AS A NEW MEMBER OF THE HFAC SOLARZ WAS ASKED TO MAKE A FACT FINDING TOUR OF THE ME. BY THE TIME OUR PATHS CROSSED, THE CONGRESSMAN ALREADY HAD BEEN IN ISRAEL BUT MORE SIGNIFICANTLY HE HAD LONG PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH HUESSIN OF JORDAN, SADAT OF EGYPT AND ASAD OF SYRIA. A YEAR AGO IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT ASAD WOULD HAVE MET WITH ANY AMERICAN CONGRESSMAN LET ALONE ONE WITH ONLY THREE WEEKS OF SENIORITY TO HIS CREDIT. BUT WHAT IS EVEN MORE REMARKABLE IS THAT SOLARZ IS JEWISH AND THE DISTRICT HE REPRESENTS CONTAINS 99.9 PERCENT OF ALL THE SYRIAN JEWS IN AMERICA, SOME 25,000 OF THEM, WHICH IS MORE THAN FIVE TIMES THE NUMBER OF JEWS LIVING IN SYRIA TODAY. THE JEWS OF SYRIA, ACCORDING TO CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ, REPRESENT THE MOST OPPRESSED JEWISH COMMUNITY IN THE WORLD AND THERE IS SOME COMPETITION IN THE CATEGORY. BUT SOLARZ LEFT HIS MEETING

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WITH ASAD FEELING THAT THE SYRIAN PRESIDENT IS WILLING TO EASE THE JEWISH PROBLEM SOMEWHAT AND THE CONGRESSMAN FROM BROOKLYN WHO ADMITS THAT HE WAS PREVIOUSLY OPPOSED TO GRANTING SYRIA TWENTY FIVE MILLION DOLLARS IN ECONOMIC AID NOW SAYS THAT HE IS INCLINED TO RETHINK HIS OPPOSITION. THE FACT IS THAT THINGS HAVE CHANGED IN THE ME AND THE CHANGES ARE NOT ALWAYS AS DISCERNIBLE AS THE DISENGAGEMENT OF ARMIES. THE STORY OF CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ IS WORTH REMEMBERING THE NEXT TIME YOU HEAR SECRETARY KISSINGER TALK ABOUT INTANGIBLES IN THE MOVEMENT TOWARDS PEACE.

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